

Application No.: 10/693271
Amendment dated: November 11, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 30, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(cancelled).

2(currently amended). A papermaking press felt ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising a base body and a batt material, said batt material being composed of fibers and comprising a wet paper web side layer and a press side layer, and including a hydrophilic, nonwoven fabric provided in the wet paper web side layer of said batt material, wherein the hydrophilic, nonwoven fabric is composed of fibers finer than those of which the batt material is composed, whereby water held in the part of the batt material on the wet web side of the hydrophilic nonwoven fabric readily moves into the hydrophilic nonwoven fabric, wherein said batt material comprises staple fibers, and wherein the fineness of the staple fibers located on the wet paper web side of said hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is 9 dtex or less.

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3 (previously presented). A papermaking press felt comprising a base body and a batt material, said batt material being composed of a wet paper web side layer and a press side layer, and said press felt having a hydrophilic, nonwoven fabric provided in the wet paper web side layer of said batt material, wherein the ratio of the basis weight of the part of the batt material located on the wet paper web side of the hydrophilic nonwoven fabric to the basis weight of the hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is in the range from 8:1 to 3:1.

4 (previously presented). A papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 3, wherein said batt material comprises staple fibers, and wherein the fineness of the staple fibers located on the wet paper web side of said hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is 9 dtex or less.

5 (previously presented). A papermaking press felt comprising a base body and a batt material, said batt material being composed of a wet paper web side layer and a press side layer, and said press felt having a hydrophilic, nonwoven fabric provided in the wet paper web side layer of said batt material, wherein the water contact angle of said hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is 30 degrees or less when the water content of the nonwoven fabric is 30-50%.

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6(previously presented). A papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 5, wherein said batt material comprises staple fibers, and wherein the fineness of the staple fibers located on the wet paper web side of said hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is 9 dtex or less.

7(original). A papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 3, wherein the water contact angle of said hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is 30 degrees or less when the water content of the nonwoven fabric is 30-50%.

8(original). A papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 4, wherein the water contact angle of said hydrophilic nonwoven fabric is 30 degrees or less when the water content of the nonwoven fabric is 30-50%.

9(cancelled).

10(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a first press apparatus and a second press apparatus provided downstream of the first press apparatus in the direction of travel of a wet paper web therethrough, each said press apparatus comprises a felt arranged to remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 2 is used as a

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felt arranged to remove water from said web in at least one of said first and second press apparatuses.

11(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a first press apparatus and a second press apparatus provided downstream of the first press apparatus in the direction of travel of a wet paper web therethrough, each said press apparatus comprises a felt arranged to remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 3 is used as a felt arranged to remove water from said web in at least one of said first and second press apparatuses.

12(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a first press apparatus and a second press apparatus provided downstream of the first press apparatus in the direction of travel of a wet paper web therethrough, each said press apparatus comprises a felt arranged to remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 4 is used as a felt arranged to remove water from said web in at least one of said first and second press apparatuses.

13(cancelled).

14(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a first press apparatus and a second

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press apparatus provided downstream of the first press apparatus in the direction of travel of a wet paper web therethrough, each said press apparatus comprises two sheets of felt arranged to pinch a wet paper web therebetween and thereby remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 2 is used as one of said two sheets of felt in at least one of said first and second press apparatuses.

15(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a first press apparatus and a second press apparatus provided downstream of the first press apparatus in the direction of travel of a wet paper web therethrough, each said press apparatus comprises two sheets of felt arranged to pinch a wet paper web therebetween and thereby remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 3 is used as one of said two sheets of felt in at least one of said first and second press apparatuses.

16(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a first press apparatus and a second press apparatus provided downstream of the first press apparatus in the direction of travel of a wet paper web therethrough, each said press apparatus comprises two sheets of felt arranged to pinch a wet paper web therebetween and thereby remove water from said web,

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wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 4 is used as one of said two sheets of felt in at least one of said first and second press apparatuses.

17(cancelled).

18(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a press apparatus having two sheets of felt arranged to pinch a wet paper web and thereby remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 2 is used as one of said two sheets of felt.

19(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a press apparatus having two sheets of felt arranged to pinch a wet paper web and thereby remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 3 is used as one of said two sheets of felt.

20(original). A press apparatus for a papermaking machine comprising a press apparatus having two sheets of felt arranged to pinch a wet paper web and thereby remove water from said web, wherein a papermaking press felt as claimed in claim 4 is used as one of said two sheets of felt.